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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/770,511	02/04/2004	Takao Kasai	4670-0102P	1770
2292 7590 06/27/2008 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
EXAMINER				
KIDWELL, MICHELE M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3761				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/27/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/770,511

Applicant(s)

KASAI, TAKAO

Examiner

Michele Kidwell

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/25/08
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 25, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed April 10, 2008 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1 – 9 based upon Ducker in view of Hoshino and further in view of Ptchelintsev as set forth in the last Office action because: the facts presented are not germane to the rejection at issue. The declaration provides statements that the article of Ducker is not as effective as the claimed invention however, the claims are not directed to, for example, a method of effectively reducing diaper rash. The claims are directed to an absorbent article including specific compounds, and as set forth in the rejection, Ducker in view of Hoshino and further in view of Ptchelintsev provide such an article. It is also noted that while the incidence of diaper rash is monitored, diaper rash stems from a variety of sources, and may or may not be present with or without treatment. If diaper rash comes as a result of a yeast

infection or food allergies, for example, neither composition will be effective in treatment. Further, if different subjects using different articles are being monitored, the severity, and therefore treatment or lack thereof, will vary on a case by case basis, and the conclusion drawn by using different diapers for different subjects is ineffective.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3 – 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ducker et al. (US 5,938,649).

With respect to claims 1 – 4, Ducker et al. (hereinafter “Ducker”) disclose a diaper (abstract) comprising a liquid impermeable back outer layer sheet and a absorber fixed on the outer layer sheet and a gather portion having a flexible elastic member formed on a predetermined position as claimed (col. 4, lines 18 – 30), wherein a water soluble skin care agent is applied on a predetermined region of a surface to be contacted with the skin of the wearer of the gather portion (col. 4, lines 31 – 55) and wherein an oily skin care agent is applied directly on the water-soluble skin care agent as set forth in col. 5, lines 37 – 42.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ducker et al. (US 5,938,649).

The difference between Ducker and claim 2 is the provision that the predetermined position contains a longitudinal direction end that is a waist gather.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the absorbent article of Ducker with a waist gather since the use of waist gathers is well known in the art to provide a more fitted article about the waist of the wearer thereby preventing undesirable leakage.

Claims 5 – 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ducker in view of Hoshino et al. (US 6,685,953) and further in view of Ptchelintsev et al. (US 5,834,513).

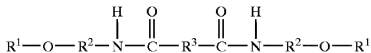
As to claims 5 – 9, Ducker discloses the absorbent diaper with mono-amide derivative oily skin care agent as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Ducker further discloses a method of improving skin health using the skin care composition aforementioned (column 1, lines 12 – 28).

The difference between Ducker and claim 5 is the provision that the diamide formula is specifically as claimed.

Hoshino discloses a dermatologic preparation for preventing skin chaffing that can be incorporated into a carrier base material (column 7, lines 4-14) in the form of lotion or other forms (column 7, lines 37-44) that has the diamide derivative formula as shown below:

Art Unit: 3761



wherein R1 represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more hydroxyl and/or alkoxy groups, R2 represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R3 represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms (column 2, lines 2-14).

One would be motivated to modify the mono-amide skin care composition disposed on absorbent of Ducker with the diamide formula of Hoshino to provide a healing skin care composition since it is known that mono-amide derivatives can be substituted for diamide derivatives for treating skin as supported by Ptchelintsev (column 3, lines 10-58) and since the references are in the same problem-solving area; amide skin treating compositions. Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the skin care composition disposed on the absorbent, thus providing a the diamide derivative with the aforementioned formula for improved skin care health.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed February 25, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the disclosure of aloe vera being incorporated into petrolatum does not constitute if being applied directly on it. The examiner disagrees. If the aloe vera is incorporated into the petrolatum, it is essentially applied to it in some fashion and mixed therein to provide the final form (i.e., solution, emulsion, etc.).

The alleged differences in the reduction of diaper rash does not preclude the fact that Ducker in view of Hoshino and further in view of Ptchelintsev provide the article as claimed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michele Kidwell whose telephone number is 571-272-4935. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michele Kidwell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761